

Solid Love in a Liquid Society: Nourishing Your Marriage

How can we feed our relationship so that our marriage will work well? Can the flame of love be reignited? Z. Baumann, a brilliant analyst of our times, talks about a 'liquid society' where nothing remains in place steadily, everything changes capriciously. Unfortunately, this trend affects family life also. There is a 'liquid love', a light, fragile, superficial kind of love. It is fleeting as an emotion, adaptable as liquid. There is, however, another type of love contrasting with the "liquid love". It is a love that puts out the fire of conflict, a love which acts as an antidote against cooling, "a love that never fails" (1 Cor. 13:8). It is the solid love which goes beyond the ups and downs of all human relationships and becomes an anchor in times of storm. To examine the very nature of such love is the goal of this workshop.

Pablo Martinez is a Forum steering committee member and was one of the leaders of the European Christian Counsellors Network for several years. He currently works as a psychiatrist at a private practice in Barcelona. He has also developed a wide ministry as a lecturer, counsellor, and itinerant speaker. He has been a plenary Bible teacher in more than 30 countries. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA) also serving as one of the organisation's vice presidents. He has filled the role of President of the Spanish Evangelical Alliance (1999-2009) and Professor of Pastoral Psychology at the Spanish Theological Seminary. He currently chairs the Ravi Zacharias Foundation in Spain. He has authored three books, *Prayer Life: How Your Personality Affects the Way You Pray*, now published in fourteen languages, *Tracing the Rainbow: Walking Through Loss and Bereavement*, and his latest, *A Thorn in the Flesh: Finding Strength and Hope Amid Suffering* (Inter Varsity Press, England). He is married to Marta. More information at his website www.Christian-thought.org

1- THE MYTH OF THE LOSS OF THE LOVING FEELING: "I DON'T LOVE HIM/HER ANYMORE"

- A. Being in love is much more than "the bliss from the beginning"
- B. Romantic love is like a river. It can last many years, but it changes in how it is felt and how it is shown
- C. Love is much more than a feeling.
Romantic love is essential for the proper growth of relationships, but not the only one.

2-THE SUBSTANCE OF SOLID LOVE

- A. A solid foundation: love is a covenant and is expressed by **faithfulness**
In God's eyes the covenant of marriage is a fundamental covenant.

- B. A healthy growth: love is closeness and is expressed by **intimacy**

- C. A good maintenance: love is reconciliation and is expressed by **forgiveness**

CONCLUSION: GOD IS THE ARCHITECT PAR EXCELLENCE

Suggested Readings:

Sacred marriage, Gary Thomas, Zondervan, USA

The 4 seasons of marriage, Gary Chapman, Zondervan

The peacemaker, Ken Sande, Baker Books,

Forgiving and asking for forgiveness, Evangelical Focus, August 2016
www.evangelicalfocus.com